

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Last Minute Memorandum

June 9, 2003

To: State Board of Education Members

From: Greg Geeting
Assistant Executive Director

Subject: Item 33, June 2003 Agenda
Direct request from the Tri-County SELPA

John Brophy, Calaveras County Superintendent of Schools, submitted a memorandum dated May 28, 2003, to the members of the State Board regarding the Tri-County SELPA's direct request to dissolve and, instead, form three separate countywide SELPAs in Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties. A key point in the memorandum is:

"We now feel our three county SELPA structure actually *inhibits* better programming for special needs children..."

No examples of how the existing structure inhibits better programming are provided. To the contrary, the memorandum outlines significant program improvements that have been made within the existing structure. Moreover, the memorandum emphasizes, "No programs or services to children will be affected by this change."

Another key point in the memorandum is:

"The results to state funding are negligible."

As indicated in the agenda item, CDE staff calculate that creation of three separate countywide SELPAs (in contrast to the existing SELPA) would result in approximately \$350,000 more annually being allocated to this region of the state. The State Board generally has not used its discretionary authority to approve requests increasing state costs or redirecting funds among regions, unless clear intent toward that end has been expressed in statute.

Accordingly, State Board staff reiterate the recommendation indicated in the agenda item that (1) the Tri-County SELPA's request be denied and (2) the State Superintendent be directed not to approve any similar request from the Tri-County SELPA under the delegated approval authority created in January 2000.

Cc: CDE Executive Staff